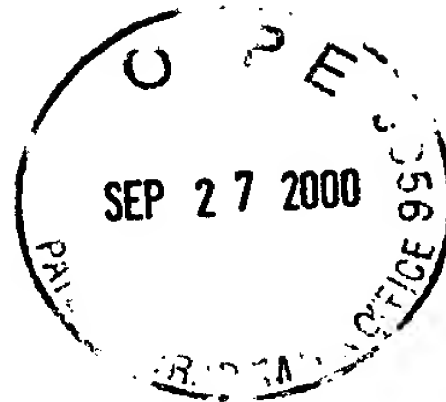


\$ 2834

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 2834  
Examiner: Karl Tamai  
Applicant: Stephen A. Debelius  
Serial No. 09/293,455  
Filing Date: April 16, 1999  
For: **ARMATURE SHAFT RETAINER**



✓  
#6/IDS.  
Hawkins  
10/6/00

INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED  
OCT - 4 2000  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D. C. 20231 on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2000.

By: W.R. [Signature], Attorney for Applicant

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. Section 1.97(c), the Examiner is hereby respectfully advised that the references listed on the attached sheet have come to the attention of Applicant and are being submitted herewith for consideration by the Examiner. Applicant has identified the references on the PTO-1449 form attached hereto. Copies of the listed references are also included.

European patent references EP 0065585 B2 and EP 0175798 B1 disclose a method for adjusting axial play between the armature and the bearings of an electric motor secured to the stator. European patent references EP 0088946 B1, EP 0213427 B1, EP 0222107 B1 and EP 0703655 B1 relate to a small electric motor with an arrangement to adjust axial play of the armatures by a spacer sleeve secured to the armature shaft and which engages with a bearing mounted

09293455

09/29/2000 09293455 00000124 022548

240.00 CH

03 FEB 1996

on the stator. European patent references EP 0622886 A1 and EP 0703656 B1 disclose an electric motor with a spacer sleeve mounted on an armature shaft and connected with an insulated disc. A spacer sleeve is axially adjustable with respect to the armature shaft and is locked on the armature shaft in its final position. German reference DE 2943711 A1 discloses a bearing arrangement with a sleeve bearing. The sleeve bearing includes an inner race which is secured to a hollow shaft and cooperates with an outer race provided within a bearing housing or cage. German DE 3115752 A1 discloses a bearing arrangement with two sleeve bearings. The bearings are press fit into a ring which has an outwardly projecting flange at one end and a radially projecting flange at the other. German DE 3346697 C2 discloses a needle bearing arrangement for a hand held power tool. The inner race of the needle bearing is mounted on one end of the armature shaft. The outer race engages with a sleeve of elastically deformable material. German DE 3534381 C2 discloses an arrangement for adjusting the axial play between the armature and stator of an electric motor.

German reference DE 3830386 C2 discloses a shaft bearing for an electrical motor. The bearing for the armature shaft is mounted within an inner bearing element of a rigid material. The inner bearing element is inserted into an outer bearing element of an elastomeric material. German DE 4309030 A1 discloses a motor plate which receives a bearing sleeve. German DE 19652929 A1 discloses a drive arrangement with an electric motor having an armature shaft which cooperates with a worm gear for driving gear elements.

It is Applicant's opinion that the claims presently on file patentably distinguish the present invention from these references. The references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute

statutory prior art or contain matter which anticipates the invention or which would render the invention obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Applicant respectfully requests that these references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application.

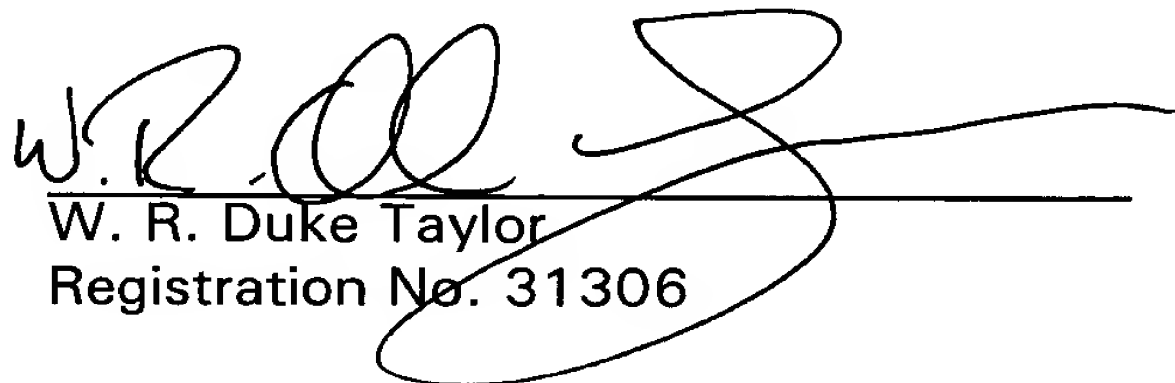
The required fee under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17(p) associated with this filing in the amount of \$240.00 is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2548. If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee to prevent the abandonment of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned attorney at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
Attorneys for Applicant

Dated: September 19, 2000 BY:

  
W. R. Duke Taylor  
Registration No. 31306

P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
Phone: (248) 641-1600

Attorney Docket No. 0275D-000247

WRDT/kmg